

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, November 7, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Council Member Carl Brewer
Treatha Brown-Foster
Gerald Domitrovic
Debra K. Miller Stevens
Debby Moore
Sharon Myers
Shontina Pickens-Tipton*
Steve Roberts
Michael Ross*
Inga Taylor*
James Thompson
Lois Tully-Gerber
LaVonta Williams

Members Absent

Hayley Domitrovic*
Lori Lawrence

Guests

Beverly Domitrovic, Schweiter NA
Carla Kellenberger, 7211 Bainbridge
John Moore, 7211 Bainbridge
Dorothy Nave, 1802 Looman
Larry Ross, 2716 E. Douglas #301
Carl Ligon, 1736 NE Parkway
Eugene Smith, 2220 N. Roosevelt
D. Carrington, 1532 N. Gentry

***Alternates**

City of Wichita Staff Present

Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant
Officer Mo Floyd, WPD

Order of Business

Call to Order

Pro-tem Debra Miller Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and welcomed the guests.

Approval of Minutes

Williams (Roberts) made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried 9-0.

Approval of Agenda

Roberts (Moore) made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Agenda

1. BNSF Rail Trail Proposal

Cecile Kellenberger, Prairie Trails, presented information on a proposal for a 4-mile trail in the District 1 area. Prairie Trails is seeking funding from the Kansas Department of Transportation Enhancement Fund and is soliciting the support of the City of Wichita. This proposal requires an 80/20 match with the grant providing 80% funding and the city 20% funding. If approved, KDOT would release the funds in 2008. The proposal was presented to MAPD on September 12, 2005 and is now being brought before DAB 1 for comments and approval.

Ms. Kellenberger added that the project is a 4-mile pedestrian/bicycle path that was previously owned by Burlington Northern Railroad. This area would be enhanced for a walking, cycling, and jogging trail and would hook up to the canal route to Woodlawn. The surface would contain crushed limestone instead of asphalt, which is better for runners.

Council Member Brewer arrived at 7:12 p.m. and Pro-tem Miller Stevens turned the meeting over for him to conduct the meeting.

(Ms. Kellenberger response is in italics)

Tully-Gerber asked what is Prairie Travelers? *Prairie Travelers is a 501(c)3 organization that constructs trails.* **Williams** asked if you do not receive the grant match from the City, would you not go forward? *The City has not proposed to do anything at this point. We would need the City's support of the 20%. We won't know until November 2006 if we have been selected for the 80%.* **Williams** inquired about the missed deadline. *I sent a cover letter stating that a letter of support would be coming in December.* **Thompson** asked if the \$379,000 would totally cover construction? *Yes, it would.* **Thompson** stated that it is her understanding that there are utility easements along the area. *True. The city took it to decrease land usage.* **Taylor** inquired if a study had been done to validate how much the trail would be used? *The City took over the land, which was donated by the railroad for rails to trails. We don't have to an exact study at this time, but it is beneficial for walking, jogging, etc.* **Domitrovic** commented that the city has bike paths. He inquired if this path would be a part of the City's Park Department? **Domitrovic** added that he noticed that the City's portion would be \$19,000 per mile. Is this normal? *I cannot say.* **Pickens** asked what happens to the 7 more miles after the 4 miles? *I don't know if we can push the City to apply for those additional fundings. We are currently applying for the 2008 funding. Additional miles would have to be applied for in 2009.* **Roberts** commented that the extended trail at K-96 is a wonderful asset and extended it to the County line would be great.

Larry Ross, 2716 E. Douglas, commented that this bike trail has historical significance, which should be noted. Mr. Ross gave a brief history of the Exoduster Movement. He suggested that members of the board walk the trail to see the possibilities. **Ed Unicale, 22 West Parkway**, stated that he helped Goddard apply for this federal grant and the government awarded them \$354,000. He stated that it looks like a lot per mile, but it depends on what you plan to do with it.

There was no further discussion.

Moore (Roberts) made a motion to support the proposed trails project.

Discussion: **Thompson** asked if there is a deadline when this has to go before the City Council? *We are waiting for a resolution from the City. We are past the deadline. Because we apply, it does not mean that the project will be approved by the State.* He added that by just receiving their package tonight, they are shooting in the dark. **Domitrovic** stating that this is not binding funds, we are just showing general support. **Taylor** asked if the streets that the trails cross would be blocked? *No. There would be signage identifying a crosswalk.*

Motion carried 8-1 (**Thompson** abstained).

2. Off-agenda items

No items submitted.

Staff Reports

3. Police Report

Officer Jones, 45 Beat, reported the following: 1) Gang Unit Stats from 2004: 54 drive-by shootings, 131 aggravated assaults with a hand-gun, 4 homicides, 178 cases (118 gang related, 11 federal charges, 5 federal arrests, 120 seized guns, 6 federal cases pending), 188 gang members arrested, 145 TOPS, 19 call outs, and 42 gang presentations. The 2005 stats: 60 drive-by shootings, 106 aggravated assaults with a handgun, 1 homicide; 2) Christmas Crusade is underway. Please let the officers know if you have referrals; 3) 43 Beat, Officer Pierce, is addressing the increase in prostitution and several arrests

have been made; 4) 44 Beat, was manned by Officer Seang who is transferring to another beat. This beat is Chief William's main concern due to it being the highest crime beat in the city. Every Community Policing Officer will be assisting with that beat; 5) 45 Beat, Officer Jones, is experiencing robberies in the 17th Street area. International students have been the targets and this has been addressed. Also, there were 18 garage burglaries on NE Parkway. The burglar has been caught and given probation; 6) 46 Beat, Officer Ward, solved the case concerning vehicle robberies; and 7) 47 Beat, Officer Kimble, is working on three drug houses and traffic issues on Minnesota.

Officer Mo Floyd, reported the following: 1) Officer Rose reported that WPD would only enforce criminal issues at the new skate board park and sent his thanks to Council Member Brewer for assisting on this issue. They are also dealing with vagrant issues on public property; 2) Officer Floyd reported that he is addressing the vacant homes on his beat. At 1301 South Emporia, vagrants are living in a detached garage and there are issues concerning the owner who is in bankruptcy; 3) the President of SCIA is forming a CDC where they can purchase vacant properties and refurbish them to address issues such as this; 4) Saturday, December 19th, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Holiday Home Tour for the South Central area. There is no cost, but a donation would be appreciated; 5) Grace United Methodist Church application for State Historic Status is to be heard in Topeka; 6) there are trash complaints along the Lincoln Street Bridge; 7) West High Junior ROTC picked up 25 bags of trash in the area; 8) In April 2006, the fishing licensing will be enforced; 9) KFDI is hosting a program for adopting a child for Christmas under the age of 14 years old; 10) the Christmas Crusade, October 31st - November 18th. There will be a cross-reference with the Salvation Army and Operation Holiday to ensure that there is no duplication of effort.

Moore (Thompson) made a motion to receive and file. Motion carried 9-0.

4. Neighborhood Inspection – Housing & Zoning

Randy Sparkman, Zoning and Licensing Supervisor, stated that he handles all commercial zoning issues and works closely with MAPD. His primary area of concern is commercial zoning issues, complaints for illegal business activities, signage code issues (billboards, commercial business signs, etc.), licensing of adult entertainment businesses, licensing of portable amusement and commercial rides, Transient Merchants licensing, and graffiti coordination.

(Randy Sparkman's response is in italics)

Brown Foster asked how would neighborhood associations know a house has been inspected, do we need liability insurance, and must they meet zoning requirements? *You can request a copy of the inspection. If it is before we license, then we can ask for a copy of the State Inspection.*

\$1,000,000,000 worth of insurance is required and zoning is limited to a certain number of days.

Miller asked if vendors are exempt from certain zoning

Deb Legge, Neighborhood Inspection Supervisors, that her area deals with violations on homes, dangerous and unsafe structures, securing of vacant properties, emergency board ups, joint nuisance code enforcement, and neighborhood cleanups. The OCI Inspectors currently have wireless laptops to handle data entry in the field. The City is working towards a wireless connection. Staff just completed 10-hour days to address evening issues. The flexed schedule was designed to address issues during daylight savings time. Lastly, staff has been hired for the South Central area. This position has been vacant for a year and a half. South Central has the biggest problem with absentee landlords and vacant and boarded up properties.

(Deb Legge's response is in italics)

Moore thanked the OCI Department for their assistance and stated that she resides in a home that has had no maintenance in the past 20 years and asked what has been done to fix this problem. Especially when landlords can evict with a three-day notice for non-payment. *It is illegal to evict*

*someone based on retaliation tactics. If there are obvious problems with the property, I encourage you to report it. **Brown Foster** asked how long after a house is burned before the debris is removed? Sometimes we do not know about a fire until neighbors call. The state law allows us to do emergency board ups. If it is too bad, we can condemn the property and send out a notice. When a demolition is done, asbestos issues have to be addressed first. We are currently out of condemnation funding. **Williams** reported that there are high weeds and vacant property at 14th and Broadview. This property was secured again on Saturday. The property was mowed at that time and John Godwin, OCI Inspector, has a case of this.*

Thompson left at 9:02 p.m.

Roberts (Moore) made a motion to receive and file. Motion carried 8-0.

Unfinished Business

No items submitted.

New Business

No items submitted.

Board Agenda

5. Updates, Issues, and Reports

- 1) **Virdena Gilkey** reported: a) Operation Holiday will be receiving applications until November 18th at Atwater and other locations; Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Please refer anyone that you know is in need of assistance; b) the Atwater Holiday Luncheon will take place on December 21st, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Everyone is invited. Council Member Brewer will supply the meat again this year.
- 2) **Council Member Brewer** announced: 1) the District I Coalition Breakfast Meeting will be December 3, 2005, Cisro's Restaurant. Contractors for the 13th Street Improvement to the canal route to Woodlawn will be there asking for input. He asked that the neighborhoods be informed; 2) Wednesday, November 9th, the County will hold another arena meeting and Tuesday, November 10th, the City Council meets on the budget; 3) the city allocates a certain amount of money for trails. Dr. Dey sits on the park board until 2008 to assist with request such as these. The city gives no guarantees the money is going to be there for trails. He then asked Dr. Dey to assist Prairie Trails with their proposed project; and 4) the next meeting of DAB I will be December 5, 2005, Atwater Neighborhood City Hall.
- 3) **Brown Foster** announced that Northeast Millair would hold its last meeting for the year on November 19th at the Atwater Neighborhood City Hall at 3:30 p.m. Bill Gale, Election Commissioner, will demonstrate the new voting machine.
- 4) **Moore** announced that the Uptown Neighborhood Association will meet December 8th; 6:30 p.m. at the College Hill UMC. This is their annual holiday dinner.

The board received and filed.

With no further business, **Brown Foster (Roberts)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virdena Gilkey
Neighborhood Assistant